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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/786,594
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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REMARKS

The Office has maintained the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,578,327) (hereinafter: "Saito") in view of Shoji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,244) (hereinafter: "Shoji") that was made in the first Action dated April 4, 2006. Claims 7 and 9 to 13 have been allowed.

Without admitting the propriety of the rejection of claims 1 to 6, these claims have been canceled in order to place the application in condition for allowance and without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a divisional application directed thereto.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2006, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

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In the event any additional fees are required, please also
charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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